THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX), Financial Technologies (India) Ltd., and National Agricultural cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) have entered into a joint venture for the establishment of National Spot Exchange for Agriculture Produce (NSEAP), which will permit participants all over the country to trade with each other electronically and settle their trades under the support and regulations of NSEAP. This joint venture was established on the 10th February, 2005 and the exchange is expected to commence live trading during the second half of the 2005-2006.

(c) Organized marketing of agricultural commodities is promoted in the country through a network of regulated markets. All the State Governments and Union Territories (Except Kerala, Manipur, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands) have enacted legislation *viz.* the Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation Act (APMC Act) to provide for regulation of the agricultural markets. No State Government/ Union Territories Administration has enacted separate legislation for setting up of Agricultural Produce Marketing Companies.

(d) By disseminating spot price data on agricultural commodities, NSEAP would enable farmers across the country to access the national market and to trade with each other on an electronic platform and settle their trades under the support and regulations of NSEAP.

Rise in prices of essential commodities

491. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of essential commodities have been rising unchecked despite a commitment in the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in the prices of these commodities during the period of the current Government, so far, and the increase registered month to month in the Consumer Price Index; and

(c) the main reasons for the price increase, and the steps taken to curb the rising prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) There is no significant increase in the prices of essential commodities since May, 2004, barring increase in prices of sugar. The extent of price variation since May, 2004 to February, 2005 may be seen in the annexed Statement *(see below)*. Percentage variation in the month to month movement of Consumer Price Index number for industrial workers (CPI-IW) from May, 2004 to January, 2005 is given below:

Month	May, 04	Jun., 04	Jul., 04	Aug., 04	Sep., 04	Oct., 04	Nov., 04	Dec., 04	Jan., 05
% variation	0.79	0.79	0.98	0.97	0.19	0.57	-0.19	-0.76	0.96

(c) Prices of essential commodities are being monitored and reviewed by the High Powered Price Monitoring Board (HPPMB) regularly. The rise in sugar prices was due to estimated fall in production coupled with reduced stock. To arrest the rising trend in sugar prices, measures taken include permitting import of raw sugar under advance licensing scheme for domestic processing, releasing of higher free sale quota regularly on quarterly basis, additional releases during festival seasons making mandatory of selling non-levy sugar quota by the mills on monthly basis failing which the unsold quantity of non-levy sugar for the month will automatically be converted into levy sugar etc. As a result, the prices of sugar have now stabilized.

Statement

Month-end retail prices of essential commodities at four metropolitan centres from May, 2004 to February, 2005

Unit (Rs./Kg.)

Centre	**May-04**	**Jun-04**	**Jul-04**	**Aug-04**	**Sep-04**	**Oct-04**	**Nov-04**	**Dec-04**	**Jan-05**	**Feb-05**
Rice										
Delhi	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00
Mumbai	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Kolkata	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Chennai	12.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00
Wheat										
Delhi	8.00	8.00	8.50	8.50	8.50	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Mumbai	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	12.00	11.00
Kolkata	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Chennai	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.00	11.00
Gram										
Delhi	22.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00
Mumbai	22.00	22.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00
Kolkata	24.00	23.00	22.00	23.00	22.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
Chennai	23.00	23.00	22.00	22.00	23.00	23.00	24.00	24.00	23.00	23.00

Centre	May-04	Jun-04	Jul-04	Aug-04	Sep-04	Oct-04	Nov-04	Dec-04	Jan-05	Feb-05
Tur										
Delhi	32.00	33.00	34.00	33.00	33.50	34.00	33.00	33.00	31.00	30.00
Mumbai	28.00	28.00	31.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	29.00	27.00	28.00
Kolkata	28.00	28.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	32.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
Chennai	33.00	33.00	34.00	34.00	38.00	36.00	36.00	35.00	34.00	32.00
Sugar										
Delhi	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.50	17.00	17.50	17.00	19.00	19.00	20.00
Mumbai	17.50	16.50	17.50	18.75	17.50	17.50	17.50	18.50	19.50	19.50
Kolkata	16.50	17.00	17.00	18.00	17.00	18.50	18.00	18.00	20.00	20.00
Chennai	16.00	16.00	16.25	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.00	17.50	18.50	18.00
Groundnut Oil										
Delhi*	87.00	84.00	87.00	85.00	85.00	87.00	84.00	84.00	84.00	84.00
Mumbai	55.00	55.00	55.00	57.00	57.00	57.00	58.00	55.00	52.00	50.00
Kolkata*	74.00	78.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	72.00	70.00	70.00	72.00	72.00
Chennai	53.00	49.00	52.00	56.00	56.00	57.00	54.00	52.00	51.00	50.00
Mustard Oil										
Delhi*	55.00	52.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	55.00	55.00	54.00	53.00
Mumbai*	80.00	80.00	80.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00
Kolkata	50.00	52.00	50.00	52.00	52.00	54.00	54.00	56.00	54.00	52.00
Chennai	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Vanaspati										
Delhi	55.00	54.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	54.00	53.00	51.00	51.00
Mumbai	52.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	52.00	52.00	50.00
Kolkata	52.00	52.00	46.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	48.00	43.00	43.00
Chennai	55.00	52.00	55.00	55.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	51.00	50.00	48.00
Tea (loose)										
Delhi	105.00	105.00	104.00	103.00	103.00	103.00	103.00	105.00	104.00	102.00
Mumbai	136.00	136.00	136.00	136.00	136.00	136.00	136.00	136.00	136.00	136.00
Kolkata	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Chennai	120.00	120.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	210.00	210.00	210.00
Potato										
Delhi	7.00	10.00	10.00	10.50	11.00	12.00	7.00	4.00	4.50	4.50
Mumbai	7.50	7.50	8.00	12.50	10.00	11.50	10.50	8.50	7.50	7.50
Kolkata	6.00	6.50	6.00	7.50	7.00	8.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	3.00
Chennai	9.00	10.00	9.00	10.00	9.00	9.00	10.00	7.00	6.00	6.00
Onion										
Delhi	6.00	7.00	9.00	10.00	10.00	11.00	9.50	8.00	8.50	7.50
Mumbai	6.00	6.50	6.50	7.50	7.00	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.00	7.00
Kolkata	8.00	6.00	8.00	8.00	10.00	12.00	8.00	8.00	6.00	6.00
Chennai	8.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	6.00	7.00	6.00
Salt (Pack)										
Delhi	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
Mumbai	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
Kolkata	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	7.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Chennai	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50
Atta										
Delhi	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.50	9.00	9.00
Mumbai	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Kolkata	9.50	9.50	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Chennai	13.00	13.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	14.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00
Milk @										
Delhi	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Mumbai	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00
Kolkata	17.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	20.00
Chennai	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00

** Refind oil, @ Rs. Per litre, # Three Rose variety (except for May, 04 and June, 04)*

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments NT: Not traded